

## **NOTIFICATION PROTOCOLS FOR THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

The Office of the Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division ("IID") and the Maryland State Police ("MSP") will lead the primary investigation of all police-involved incidents that result in the death of a civilian or injuries likely to result in death ("qualifying incidents") as mandated by Maryland Code, State Government Article, § 6-602.

### **I. Definitions**

Qualifying incidents include any act or omission of a law-enforcement officer while the law-enforcement officer is on duty or while the law enforcement officer is off duty but performing activities that are within the scope of his or her law enforcement duties.

The following are examples of, but not limited to, the types of incidents that IID and MSP should be notified about: shootings that are fatal or result in the likelihood of death, use of force incidents that are fatal or result in the likelihood of death, deaths occurring while an individual is in police custody, and vehicle pursuits by law enforcement that result in death or the likelihood of death.

The IID will determine whether an incident is police-involved and whether an injury is likely to result in death.

### **II. Notification**

Immediately upon learning of a qualifying incident, the local law enforcement agency ("LEA") that employs the officer and/or the local LEA with primary jurisdiction over the location of the incident will notify the MSP Headquarters Duty Officer at **(410) 653-4474**. The notifying local LEA will provide contact information for the on-scene commander with responsibility for the initial crime scene response.

If a local LEA is uncertain whether an incident qualifies for notification, the local LEA should contact MSP at the above number. The local LEA's on-scene commander will be contacted as quickly as possible by a member of the IID or MSP.

During the initial contact, the local LEA's on-scene commander should provide, to the best of their ability, the following preliminary information: the date and time of the incident; the location of the incident, of any other crime scenes, and of any other witnesses; the type of incident that led officers to the scene; the number of involved and witnessing officers; whether anyone is deceased or injured; and whether the media is on-scene. It is more important that the local LEA provide notification quickly than that they wait to obtain all of these pieces of information.

The local LEA will maintain control over the crime scene until the arrival of MSP. The IID has distributed protocols for evidence collection and media contacts, which should be followed prior to MSP's arrival at the scene.

The local LEA will maintain scene security, including traffic control, until the on-scene investigation is complete, and the scene is released. The local LEA will provide security for any

individuals in custody until either treated and booked, relieved by the Division of Corrections as a bedside commitment or transferred to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Some special police officers employed by LEAs are covered by the legislation. If your agency has an incident involving a special police officer, please notify the IID, and we will determine whether it is a qualifying incident.

While initial notification should always go to MSP at **(410) 653-4474**, a local LEA may reach out with additional questions to the on-call IID investigator at (410) 576-7070.